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Halesworth Urban District Council.

THE ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the Year 1948.



TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
HALESWORTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1948.

The report has been prepared on the lines indicated by the Minister under Ministry of Health Circular 3/49.

The year was free from any outbreak of serious epidemic disease, and the birth rate and death rate compare favourably with that of England and Wales.

The housing shortage is often attributed to the war years with enemy bombing and general deterioration, but there is another factor which is often overlooked and this factor is the social security legislation of recent years.

A dozen years ago the old age pensioner at 10/- a week could not continue to pay the rent and so we had a group of unfortunate people known as the "aged poor". Today, with a more generous scale of pensions, food subsidies and rent restriction, persons on reaching pension age no longer need to vacate their homes. This is most desirable, but it sometimes happens that an old person is left alone in a house too large to keep clean or warm, and should the house become unsanitary it becomes the unpleasant duty of the Local Authority to remove the occupant. It would appear that there is a need for small flatlet type houses for these old age pensioners, at rents sufficiently low to encourage them to vacate the large houses which are in demand for the younger family units, and especially for the younger ex-serviceman, who, not having been a householder in the pre-war years, often has to live in overcrowded conditions. It would appear that the present relatively generous allotment of houses to old people is being made not at the expense of the tax-payer, but at the expense of the younger wage earner whose dissatisfaction with the state of affairs is sometimes manifest in the unofficial strikes of recent months.

I would like to record my appreciation to Dr. Burns and the members and officers of the Council for their co-operation and support in 1948.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J.L. PATTON, M.B. Ch.B. D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT:

Public Health Officers:

Medical Officers of Health:

W.M. BURNS, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.T.M. (resigned 30th June 1948)

J.L. PATTON, M.B., Ch. B., D.P.H.

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector:

A.W. PLOWRIGHT, M.S.I.A. C.R. San.I.

General Statistics.

				1947.	1948.
Area (in Acres)	....	....	....	1107	1107
Registrar General's estimate of resident population	2307			2087	
Approximate number of inhabited houses	....			691	852
Rateable Value	....	....	....	£11,503	£11,716
Sum represented by a penny rate	....	....	....	£17.	£48.16.4.

Vital Statistics.

	Total	Male	Female	Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population. (England & Wales 17.9)
Live (Legitimate)	31	18	13	15.8
Births (Illegitimate)	2	1	1	
Stillbirths	0	0	0	Rate per 1,000 total (Live & still).....
Deaths	19	6	13	Death rate per 1000 of population - 9.9 (England & Wales 10.8)

Deaths from Puerperal causes - Nil.

Death rate of Infants under 1 year per 1,000 live births -

No infant deaths in 1948.

(On 19th January 1949 the Halesworth Times pointed out that in the year 1899, 15 deaths occurred in infants under one year in Halesworth.)

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS

Only two Infectious Diseases have been notified during 1948

Measles - 8

Whooping Cough - 42

Admitted to Hospital - None.

Deaths from Infectious Diseases - None.

No cases of Puerperal Pyrexia or Diphtheria were notified in 1948

TUBERCULOSIS:

One new case of Tuberculosis Adenitis (Glands in neck) was notified.

No other new case of Tuberculosis was notified and there was no death from this cause.

CHILD WELFARE.

The Child Welfare Clinic is held at the Church Rooms on the afternoon of the 1st and 3rd Wednesday in each month.

The popularity of this clinic owes much to the valuable services of the lady voluntary workers and to the enthusiasm of the District Nurse and Health Visitors.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Pre-school population (0-4)	189
School population (5-14)	280
% pre-school children immunised	65.1
% all children immunised	95.7
"Booster" treatment 1948	21

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	Male	Female	Total.
Heart Diseases	4	8	12
Intr-cranial Vascular lesions	2	0	2
Cancer	0	1	1
Pneumonia and Broncho-pneumonia	0	1	1
Disease of digestive system	0	2	2
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	0	1	1
	<hr/> 6	<hr/> 13	<hr/> 19

THE ALMSHOUSES.

The almshouses at Steeple End were closed in October 1948, thereby leaving a need for old peoples dwellings.

Some accommodation is needed for those elderly persons who while well able to live an independent life have no longer the physical ability to manage a house with garden and stairs.

It is hoped that the Trustees of the Unappropriated Estates will make progress with their plan for modernisation of the old Almshouses.

SECTION 47 OF THE NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

It was not found necessary to use the powers under this Act, but following an investigation the last occupant of the Almshouse was voluntarily admitted to Hartismere Hospital.

1. The first part of the report is a general introduction to the subject.

2. The second part of the report is a detailed description of the methods used in the study.

3. The third part of the report is a discussion of the results of the study.

4. The fourth part of the report is a conclusion and a list of references.

5. The fifth part of the report is a summary of the findings of the study.

6. The sixth part of the report is a list of references.

7. The seventh part of the report is a list of references.

WATER.

The water supply for the area is satisfactory (a) in quality and (b) in quantity.

There is a piped supply and the result of examination on the 28th October, 1948, is as follows:-

Temperature at source	-	51° F.	
Chemical analysis (results stated in parts per million) by W. Lincoln Sutton F.R.I.C. Norwich, Public Analyst.			
Total solids in solution		520.	
Nitrogen Ammonical		0.16	
Albuminoid		0.033	
Chloride as Chlorine		94.0	
Nitre Nitrogen		Nil	
Nitrous Nitrogen		Nil	
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate in 4 hours 80 F.		I.0	
Hardness Temporary	250		
Permanent	70	Total	320.
Colour 5.5' A.P.H.A.	Taste and Smell	- Nil	percentible
Sediment of Iron Oxycarbonate	- ph	7.7	
Calcium as Ca.	105	Carbonate as CO ₃	150.
Magnesium as Mg	13.8	Sulphate as SO ₄	56
Sodium as Na	57.0	Nitrate as NO ₃	Nil
Iron	1.1	Chloride as Cl	94.

Bacteriological Results.

Colonies per ml on agar at 37°C - Nil.
Colonies absent in 100 cc

Remarks.

A ferruginous water of good organic and bacteriological quality.

The water is not plumbo-solvent.

There is no evidence of contamination and no action has been necessary in this respect.

The number of dwelling houses supplied at present is 88% of the total

i.e.

There are no stand pipes.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Work on the main sewerage scheme has made good progress during 1948. Several of the streets are now sewered and progressive householders are connecting their drainage to the public system. With the completion of the Holton Road and Mount Pleasant sections the scheme is, with the exception of a small portion, complete.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The inspection of meat carried out at the Ministry of Food Slaughterhouse, Beccles, which serves Halesworth and other surrounding district. Should occasion arise the Sanitary Inspector is called in locally. The inspection of other foods is carried out systematically during periodical visits to food premises.

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FOOD POISONING.

No case of food poisoning was reported in 1948.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector)

Premises	No. on register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Owners prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections I, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	5	22	0	0
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority				
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Outworkers)	13	37	0	0
TOTAL:	18	59	0	0

2. Cases in Which Defects were Found - Nil.

Outwork. There are no outworkers registered.

